

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 9, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3024

Introduced by Assembly Member Wolk

February 24, 2006

An act to add and repeal Section 12242.5 of the Elections Code, relating to vote centers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3024, as amended, Wolk. Vote centers: Solano County.

Existing law authorizes ~~the election official~~ *officials* to designate polling places in each precinct and to use satellite locations for any voter using an absentee ballot, prior to the close of the polls on election day, to vote the ballot at the satellite location in addition to the office of the elections official.

This bill would, until January 1, ~~2008~~ *2010*, authorize a pilot program to establish vote centers in lieu of polling places in each precinct in Solano County *for nonfederal and nonstate elections held after January 1, 2009*, and would require that each vote center meet specified conditions.

The bill would require the County of Solano, *if the county establishes vote centers for one or more elections*, to make a specified report to the Legislature *and the Secretary of State* by no later than January 1, ~~2008~~ *2010*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 12242.5 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

12242.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Board of Supervisors of Solano County may, by resolution, instruct the county elections official to establish vote centers in lieu of polling places in each precinct.

(b) If vote centers are used in an election, each vote center shall have a secure electronic connection to the county's voter registration system to provide voting information to, and receive voting information from, the computerized registration list maintained by the county elections official. The county may not use vote centers in an election unless the Secretary of State has certified that the secure electronic connection is sufficient to prevent any elector from voting more than once and to prevent unauthorized access to the computerized registration list.

(c) Vote centers in the county shall be established at the ratio of one vote center for each 5,000 registered voters.

(d) The number, location, and manner of operation of the vote centers, including providing for poll watching activities, shall be determined by the county elections official in consultation with the chairpersons of the county central committees of the ~~major political parties and a representative of the county organization of any minor political party.~~ *political parties and any interested community groups, including groups that advocate for persons with disabilities.*

(e) Each vote center shall meet all the requirements of federal and state law applicable to polling places, including accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities.

(f) As used in this section, "vote center" means a ~~polling place~~ *location* at which any registered voter in the county holding the election may vote, regardless of the precinct in which the voter resides.

(g) *If vote centers are used in an election, the county elections official shall use a direct recording electronic voting system, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 19251, in which a vote may be cast on any of the ballot types used in the county for that election.*

1 (h) *To the extent possible, the county elections official shall*
2 *ensure that vote centers are geographically distributed*
3 *throughout the political subdivisions in which the election is*
4 *being held. The county elections official shall consider the*
5 *availability of parking when establishing the locations of vote*
6 *centers.*

7 (i) *At any election at which vote centers are used, the county*
8 *elections official shall allow voters to vote prior to election day*
9 *at some or all of the vote centers.*

10 ~~(g) This section shall apply only to the County of Solano. The~~
11 ~~county, not later than January 1, 2008, shall provide a report to~~
12 ~~the Legislature describing the procedures and addressing issues,~~
13 ~~including, but not limited to, security, cost, and voter turnout.~~

14 (j) *This section shall apply only to nonstate and nonfederal*
15 *elections held after January 1, 2009, in the County of Solano. If*
16 *the county establishes vote centers for one or more elections, the*
17 *county, by no later than January 1, 2010, shall provide a report*
18 *to the Legislature and the Secretary of State on the use of vote*
19 *centers describing the procedures used and addressing issues*
20 *including, but not limited to, security, cost, and voter turnout.*
21 *The report shall also discuss any feedback received by the county*
22 *from voters about the use of vote centers.*

23 ~~(h)~~

24 (k) *This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,*
25 *2008 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted*
26 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2008 2010, deletes or*
27 *extends that date.*

28 SEC. 2. *Due to the unique circumstances concerning voting*
29 *in Solano County, it is necessary that, and the Legislature finds*
30 *and declares that, a general statute cannot be made applicable*
31 *within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California*
32 *Constitution. Therefore, this act is necessarily applicable only to*
33 *Solano County.*